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ABSTRACT

Over the last several years, educators have emphasized the need for students to become involved in service programs for others. An effective Catholic educational program must emphasize the message of the Gospel and encourage students to live in harmony and serve each other. Students who participate in service activities on a regular basis develop these qualities. The purpose of apostolic service programs is to help students acquire the Gospel values of justice to others, love of neighbor, and service to the world. Successful programs are developmentally appropriate, provide continual challenges, are part of real-life situations, and are sufficiently developed so that both students and teachers are fully prepared for the experience. Activities are described for primary, intermediate, and upper elementary grades students. They include collections, service in the school, and service outside the school. Addresses from which to obtain further information are provided. Primary grade activities include collecting for World Hunger Day, cleaning the school yard, and adopt-a-family programs. Activities for intermediate grade students include a walk-a-thon for the homeless, a big brother/big sister program within the school to assist younger students, and a foster grandparent reading and visitation program. Upper grade activities include a Christmas basket collection, cross-age tutoring, and service to the community kitchen. (GEA)

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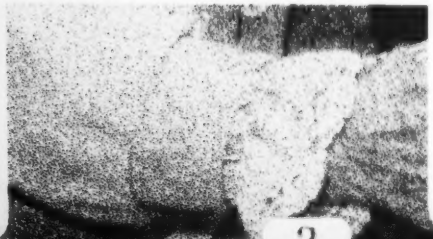
APOSTOLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOR CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

edited by
Robert J. Kealey, F.S.C.

SO 019 723



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Robert J. Kealey, F.S.C.

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Department of Elementary Schools, Washington, D.C.

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Cover photo: The joy of those involved in apostolic service programs is manifested by this student from Ss. Peter and Paul School and a resident of Catholic Memorial Home, Fall River, MA.

PREFACE

This book is made possible through a grant from the Father Michael J. McGivney Memorial Fund which is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus in honor of their founder. The fund encourages new initiatives in Catholic education.

In September 1987, all the Catholic elementary schools that are members of the Department of Elementary Schools of the National Catholic Educational Association received invitations to submit explanations of their apostolic service programs for primary (K-3), middle (4-6) and upper (7 and 8) grade students. Hundreds of teachers and administrators from schools across the country took the time to write an explanation of their programs. The Department expresses its gratitude to those Catholic educators who so generously willed to share their experiences with the other educational ministers of the Department. The Department also expresses its gratitude to those schools that contributed photos for this publication.

This publication emerged from these explanations and photos. All the responses submitted were read and the activities were classified according to the object of the activity, i.e., collections for others, service activities that assist the school community, and service activities that assist the larger community. These became the subdivisions for the three grade levels.

Many educators submitted entries similar to other programs. In many cases in this publication credit for a particular project is given to two individuals. In such instances, the written explanation contained in this book may represent a combination of the two programs credited with the suggestion.

While the activities are grouped according to primary, intermediate and upper grades, teachers may find that some suggestions are appropriate for other levels. Some teachers will be able to take a primary grade activity and alter it to suit the developmental needs of the older students. Likewise primary grade teachers will take an activity suggested for the upper grades and adapt it for the younger students.

The Department offers this book with the hope that teachers will encourage students to undertake on a regular basis apostolic service activities and that teachers may be encouraged to develop additional service programs for elementary school students.

August 15, 1988

James Griesgraber
President

Robert J. Kealey, F.S.C.
Executive Director

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SECTION I

APOSTOLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Over the last several years, educators have emphasized the need for students to become involved in service programs for others. This is not something new in Catholic education. At the Last Supper Jesus washed the feet of his apostles and told them, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." (John 13: 15) After the resurrection Jesus specifically commands his disciples to "Feed my lambs... Feed my sheep." (John 21: 15 & 17)

Service was to be a distinguishing part of the Christian life.

To Teach as Jesus Did

In 1972 the American Catholic bishops published their pastoral letter on Catholic education. In *To Teach As Jesus Did* the bishops identified three characteristics of quality Catholic education: message, community and service.

An effective Catholic educational program proclaims to the students the message of the Gospel. Students so internalize this message that they live in harmony with each other, they have community with one another. This shared life impels the students to serve each other.

The bishops expressed it in these words.

> The experience of Christian community leads naturally to service. Christ gave his people different gifts not only for themselves but for others. Each must serve the other for the good of all. The Church is a servant community in which those who hunger are to be filled; the ignorant are to be taught; the homeless to receive shelter; the sick cared for; the distressed consoled; the oppressed set free—all so that people may more fully realize their human potential and more readily enjoy life with God now and eternally.
>
> But the Christian community should not be concerned only for

itself. Christ did not intend it to live walled off from the world any more than He intended people to work out their destiny in isolation from others. . . No human joy, no human sorrow is a matter of indifference to the community established by Jesus. In today's world this requires that the Christian community be involved in seeking solutions to a host of complex problems, such as war, poverty, racism, and environmental pollution, which undermine community within and among nations. (National Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1972, sections 28 and 29)

Community Service Activities

One question on the application form for the 1987—1988 School Recognition Program sponsored by the United States Department of Education specifically asked schools, "What efforts are made to involve students in community service activities." (Elementary School Recognition Program, 1987, p. 39)

Thus, even public education recognizes the importance of involving students in service programs.

Purpose of Service Programs

An old proverb states, "Repetition is the mother of learning." Students who participate in service activities on a regular basis develop the habit of service to others. Such external actions lead them to reflect on the actions and the purposes of their actions. These actions and reflections help students place the value of service to others in an appropriate place in their hierarchy of values. Therefore, the purpose of apostolic service programs is to help students to acquire the Gospel values of justice to others, love of neighbor and service to the world.

Catholic schools commit themselves to integrating value formation practices into the entire curriculum. The goal of the Catholic school program is to produce students who live the Gospel message in their daily lives. Students learn values from being exposed to the message of the Gospel, by participating in programs that help them to live out the teaching of Jesus, and by accepting the challenge to live the Gospel message when no one is present to direct them.

Apostolic service programs give students an awareness of the many different ways of serving their neighbors. They remind students that service to others is not something that happens only periodically, and they challenge students to live their baptismal commitment.

Characteristics

Successful apostolic service programs have four characteristics.

1. Developmentally Appropriate

Effective instruction progresses in a developmental sequence. A later step depends upon a previous one and the previous step lays the foundation for the next one. Teachers have different expectations for first grade students than they do for third grade students. Teachers use different instructional strategies for fourth grade students than they do for eighth grade students. Teachers pose different challenges to second grade students than they do to sixth grade students. This same principle of learning applies to fostering attitudes, values, virtues. Therefore, the apostolic service programs for students on different levels in school are quite varied.

To always have students only visit a nursing home will not give breadth to the students' sense of care for the elderly. To merely have students contribute to collections for vague purposes will not sharpen their decision making skills. To only suggest apostolic service to their peers in their own school hinders students in reaching the goal of service to all peoples that the bishops mentioned in *To Teach as Jesus Did.*

Faculties set a sequence of apostolic service activities for each grade level. The activities of the lower grades prepare the students for the more challenging demands of the upper grades. In setting these activities the faculty carefully sees that the students experience a wide variety of activities both inside the school and outside the school.

While over a number of years the students may have the same general experience, the specific demands for the students change from grade to grade. Primary grade students may visit the nursing home periodically to sing songs for the residents. Intermediate grade students may also visit the nursing home, but they talk to, listen to or play games with the patients. Upper grade students may also visit the nursing home, however, they may deliver meals, walk with residents on the grounds, or help the patients with their various forms of therapy. Such a list of activities forms a developmental program which calls upon students to respond according to their level of maturity. Such a program prepares students for the next more challenging task.

2. Continual Challenges

Most programs are not one action or one event during the year. Programs extend over time. In education many steps form part of a pro-

gram. If a school only has a clothing drive at Thanksgiving, this is not an apostolic service program. If a school sends cards to the patients in a hospital only at Christmas, this is not an apostolic service program. If a school has a mission collection only during Lent, this is not an apostolic service program. All of these activities together with other activities form an apostolic service program.

One of the aims of the school's apostolic service program is to develop in students the habit of service to others. Habits are developed only after repeated actions.

Initially, teachers may be quite directive in working with their classes in the area of apostolic service. This is very similar to the clear and precise directions that early childhood teachers give young students in regard to their behavior in the classroom. As the students mature and learn the purposes of school and their responsibility to others, teachers become less and less directive and pose more and more challenges to students, calling them to respond to situations in responsible ways. After students have been introduced to apostolic service activities for a number of years, the teachers also become less and less directive. Teachers present many challenges to the students and provide the students with the freedom to respond to those challenges in the ways they see fit.

In such a program, teachers do not cease providing many and varied challenges. In a certain sense, the older the students, the more they should be challenged.

3. Real-life Situations

Apostolic service activities flow from the real world in which students live. Teachers need not, nor should they, manufacture contrived situations. Enough situations exist in the students' world to challenge them to respond to them. In the school's apostolic service program, teachers seek to have students deepen their value of service so that when they leave school they will regularly respond from this value to the day-to-day situations that they experience.

Teachers discover in the content they are teaching sources of ideas for activities to challenge their students. A story in the basal reader of a new family moving into the neighborhood suggests many and prolonged forms of apostolic service. An instance of racial injustice discussed in the social studies class poses a variety of activities that the students can undertake both in their local area and on a national level. A description of environmental pollution observed in the science class calls the students to examine and correct local disregard for environmental safety. Accuracy

in mathematics class tests students' sense of justice in dealing with merchants, the telephone company or in athletic competitions.

This integrated approach mirrors what Catholic education proclaims, i.e., the integration of values in all areas of the curriculum. This approach over eight, nine or thirteen years of Catholic education forms students committed to Gospel values.

4. Fully Prepared

Teachers concern themselves with three distinct aspects of preparedness for apostolic service activities.

Students need to know exactly what they are expected to do in this forth-coming experience. Many students have great difficulty dealing with vagueness. Therefore, part of the preparedness that the teachers give the students is an exact accounting of what they will do. How are they to help younger students with their reading? What is the subject of their conversation with patients in a nursing home? What subjects are in their letters to children in a youth shelter? Many times teachers will role play the actual experience in order to give the students concrete ideas of what they are to do.

Some forms of apostolic service activities are in and of themselves frightening to some students. The more details that teachers give to students the less anxiety students experience. The goals of these activities are both to provide a real assistance to the people served and also to deepen in students their attitudes of service and their value of love. These cannot be achieved if undue anxiety exists.

In addition to the details of the experience, teachers prepare students intellectually and affectively for the experience. Students want to know very clearly why they are engaging in this experience. This intellectual knowledge provides the data upon which students freely assent to carrying out the task. Too often some teachers spend so much time on the details of the experience, that insufficient time remains to deal with the formation of understanding and attitude that are to flow from the experience.

If teachers use the experiences that naturally arise from the context of what is being studied in the various classes, this aspect of preparation has already begun. At times, this form of preparation may be very teacher-dominated. At other times, this form of preparation may involve greater student participation. Before students begin such activities teachers ask themselves if the students truly understand and appreciate why they are about to have this experience.

The last aspect of the preparation follows the experience. When students return to class, teachers give them time to reflect on the experience. During the activity the students become so concerned with the details that they have no time to reflect on what they are doing. A few moments of quiet when they return help them to evaluate their conduct in the situation. These moments of quiet and self-examination foster the internalization of the values.

At times, teachers may pose some rhetorical questions: What did you feel as you were wheeling the patients to the chapel? Why did you write those sentences on your cards to the sick parishioners? How would you have responded if you were students in that school?

At other times, teachers may conduct class discussions. These discussions enable students to share their feelings with others. The verbalization of inner thoughts helps students more clearly understand themselves. By listening to others, students affirm their own thinking, alter their thinking or challenge other students. All these activities foster growth.

Special Note

Because so much attention is focused on liability and so many people bring law suits against schools, teachers observe certain cautions. Students should not engage in an apostolic service program, especially one that requires the students to leave the classroom, without the explicit knowledge and consent of the students' parents.

Teachers regularly check with their principals regarding the type of insurance coverage the school has for field trips and also check with host institutions regarding their regulations and coverage. While these are realities that teachers must deal with, the added burden of acquiring this information should not deter teachers from challenging students to engage in apostolic service projects.

Conclusion

A school is not a Catholic school unless it has an effective apostolic service program. This program dares the students to practice the principles of the Gospel. Like any program in a Catholic school, this program is well planned. The entire faculty has agreed on a sequence of learning activities. The individual teachers have made the necessary contact to insure the success of the program. The teachers have prepared the students well for the particular experience.

Jesus challenged his followers to manifest an active love for their

neighbors. The world today needs people who openly manifest their concern for other people. Catholic school students can bring about the redemption of the world by internalizing during the elementary school years the value of service to others and then spending a lifetime practicing it.

Students at Transfiguration School, Florissant, MO, show their complete involvement in service.

SECTION II

ACTIVITIES FOR PRIMARY GRADE STUDENTS

COLLECTIONS

Food for the Third World

Third grade students conduct a bake sale during the month of October in order to raise money for needy families in Haiti. This money buys goats for families. Goats provide a cheap supply of milk to the families. The goats cost $50.00 and are provided by INSA which also provides veterinary service for a year. Those receiving the goats also receive instruction in how to care for them. A presentation on Haitian life motivates the students to take part in this activity. Frequently a pen pal relationship springs up between the students and the families.

For more information contact:
Sister Jean Liston, GNSH
Christ the King School
46 Peachtree Way, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30305

Working for the Missions

Kindergarten students contract with their parents to do certain jobs around the house for which they will be paid. These are jobs over and above their regular home responsibilities. The students then contribute the money earned to the school's mission fund.

For more information contact:
Sister Ruth Angelette, OP
St. Anthony of Padua School
4601 Cleveland Ave.
New Orleans, Louisiana 70119

Mission Awareness

The purpose of this week-long program is to give students a greater sensitivity to the life of missionaries and the people they serve. Kindergarten through third grade students learn about the life of a mission land through films, slides, and presentations by guest speakers. The children attempt to walk in the steps of the missionaries as they carry out their duties. The students prepare simple food staples that people in different countries eat. Students also dress up as the people of the land being studied. These activities motivate students to contribute to the mission collection.

For more information contact:

Marty Ann Adams
St. Apollinaris School
3700 Lassen Street
Napa, California 94558

Barbara Koller
St. Matthias School
4910 North Claremont Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60625

Hunger March

In special recognition of World Hunger Day, primary grade students participate in an annual hunger march around the school block. The children solicit pledges from people who agree to donate a set amount of money for each time the students complete the trip around the block. The students wear name cards which are stamped each time they complete a trip. Rest areas are set up where juice is provided. At the end of the march, which is done to march music, a prayer service is held in the school yard for the students, parents, and teachers. During this prayer service helium balloons are released.

For more information contact:
Maryann Slater
Blessed Sacrament School
2112 Hollister Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Mission Helpers

During the school year the third grade students assume leadership in planning and carrying out a number of activities aimed at creating greater awareness of all students in the school. These activities motivate student contributions to the mission collection. The program emphasizes the words *care* and *share*.

Students collect posters depicting foreign lands from airlines and travel agents. These posters are used in mission displays. On World Hunger Day students who make a donation to the project receive a school-made badge. A cake sale is sponsored at Valentine's Day. A "Gift for Someone You Love Raffle" is held in June.

For more information contact:
Sally T. Murphy
Immaculate Conception School
179—14 Dalny Road
Jamaica, New York 11432

First Friday Collection

Each first Friday at mass students contribute money to the offertory collection. This money is taken from the students' allowances, and money earned by shoveling snow, washing cars, raking leaves, or other tasks that they perform. The money is sent to the shelter for abused children, the Indian missions, or other worthy charities.

For more information contact:
Margaret Swanson
St. Cecilia School
3869 Webster Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68131

Can and Penny Day

Once a month all the third grade students bring one can of food and one penny to class. The can of food is used to fill baskets for the poor of the parish. The penny is collected and used to light a vigil light in the church. The students go to church for a short prayer service during which one student lights the vigil light.

For more information contact:
M.F. Kostka
Divine Mercy School
1940 N. Courtenay Parkway
Merrit Island, Florida 32953

Math-a-thon

Students in the primary grades do approximately 200 mathematics problems. Each student is sponsored by an adult who agrees to contribute one cent for each correct problem. The money earned is donated to a worthy cause.

For more information contact:
Sister Mary Immaculate Doyle, OP
St. Mary Magdalen School
2430 N. Providence Road
Media, Pennsylvania 19063

Alice Romano
St. Mary School
244 Central Avenue
Rahway, New Jersey 07065

Gifts for Baby Jesus

Students buy, make or give good used toys or clothing for infants or babies. These are wrapped and addressed to the Baby Jesus. At Christmas

Elementary school students of St. Albert School, Council Bluffs, IA, honor their honorary grandparents.

these gifts are placed under the school's Christmas tree. Throughout the year these gifts are collected and donated to à local agency that cares for unwed mothers or to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

For more information contact:

Margaret Monahan
St. Patrick School
1813 South 12 Street
St. Joseph, Missouri 64503

Sister Michael Marie Friedman
St. Mary School
3230 Buckner Lane
Paducah, Kentucky 42001

Gifts for Saint Nick

On December sixth or the closest school day to that date, St. Nicholas

visits the classes to receive gifts instead of give gifts. The students make donations of new or used clothing for young children. This clothing is given to Birthright, an agency that works with mothers as an alternative to having an abortion.

For more information contact:
Linda Cherry
Saint Anthony School
1300 Urban Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43229

International Fair

Classes choose different third world countries. For six weeks students study the geography, people, customs, and occupations of the country. They also attempt to learn the language, songs and dances of the country. At the end of six weeks, students invite their parents, parishioners and the entire community to an international fair. Each class performs songs, dances and skits which they have written about their assigned country. Local foods of each country are sold to the guests. The students and guests are asked to contribute clothing, toys, games and school supplies for the children of the various countries. Arrangements are made with various mission groups to send the materials to the countries.

For more information contact:
Kathryn Alewine
Our Lady of Fatima School
1600 Ninth Avenue North
Texas City, Texas 77590

Adopt Migrant Workers

The students adopt children living in a neighboring parish who are the children of migrant workers. The money offered at the weekly children's liturgies is used to purchase food for the migrants. Monthly, two students from each grade go shopping for basic foods. During the year clothing collections are held for school clothes, clothes for adults working in the fields, and summer clothes for the children. One of the people who ministers to the migrant workers visits the school monthly to explain how the offerings of the students help these poor people.

For more information contact:

Lorianne Hill
Incarnation School
2911 Bee Ridge Road
Sarasota, Florida 34239

Sister Sandra Blanchard, CSJ
St. George School
7880 Siegen Lane
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

Stocking Tree

During Advent the primary grade students buy stockings and hang them on the class Christmas tree. On the last day before the Christmas holiday, these are taken down and wrapped with a card indicating the sex and age of the person who could wear the stocking. The students and the teacher bring them to the local St. Vincent de Paul Society for distribution to needy people.

For more information contact:

Margaret Swanson
St. Cecilia Elementary School
3869 Webster Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68131

Cecilia Smith
St. Joan of Arc School
824 South Purdum
Kokomo, Indiana 46901

Students of Transfiguration School, Florissant, MO, show their appreciation to the mailman by giving him a bouquet of balloons.

SERVICE IN THE SCHOOL

A Cleaner School Yard

Second grade students accept responsibility for keeping the school yard clean. Periodically these students go out into the yard during religion class and pick up the papers which have blown into the yard from the neighboring busy streets.

For more information contact:

Theresa Everson
Northside Catholic School
4324 Margaretta
St. Louis, Missouri 63115

Joseph Sullivan
Ascension Catholic School
809 Saint Vincent Street
Donaldsonville, Louisiana 70346

Hug Day

The kindergarten students give a positive tone to the school on Wednesdays by giving a hug to each teacher. The students take turns in performing this pleasant task and this effort to cheer-up the teachers in the middle of the week is well received.

For more information contact:
Sybil J. Stewart
Sacred Heart Elementary School
10482 Le Moyne Boulevard
Biloxi, Mississippi 39532

Church Cleaners

Each Monday after liturgy, the first grade students gather all the church bulletins left in the pews of the church. They also return to the bookrack the hymnals and the missalettes. This gives the church a neat appearance for the week.

For more information contact:
Sister Mary Stephen, VSC
St. Matthias School
2800 Shady Run Road
Youngstown, Ohio 44502

SERVICE OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL

Adopt-a-Priest

The kindergarten students adopt a priest from the parish who is a long distance from his relatives. At the start of the school year the class designs an adoption certificate which is presented to the priest. During the year the priest is invited to all class parties, field trips, assemblies and other special functions. The class creates special cards for different occasions. The class becomes the priest's family.

For more information contact:
Sybil J. Stewart
Sacred Heart Elementary School
10482 Le Moyne Boulevard
Biloxi, Mississippi 39532

Adopt-A-Family

Each year, third grade students participate in a adopt-a-family program. The students make a year long commitment to assist this family. The class provides Trick-or-Treat bags at Halloween, food baskets at Thanksgiving, outgrown clothing and new gifts at Christmas, small remembrances on Valentine's Day, and baskets at Easter. Money is earned for this project by the sale of snacks at lunch time and bake sales after Sunday masses. The students plan the program, shop for the materials and deliver the packages.

For more information contact:

Carol B. Graeme
St. Catherine of Siena School
2501 Centerville Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19808

Pam Manuel
Lady Queen of Heaven School
3908 Creale Street
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70605

Adopt a Poor Child

Names of poor children living in missionary countries can be obtained from different missionary organizations. The students who agree to adopt one of these poor children agree to help the child for two years.

This help consists of a monthly sum of money, regular letters sent to the child by the members of the class, and prayers for the child and his/her family. The correspondence between the children gives them a deeper understanding of each other.

For more information contact:
Jose Mazon
Fairmont Catholic School
416 Madison Street
Fairmont, West Virginia 26554

Adopt a Missionary

Each child receives the name and picture of a missionary. These can be gotten from the religious community involved in the parish or school or by writing to a religious community. During the year the students are encouraged to remember this person in their prayers. They are also encouraged to write regularly to this person. This gives the students a deeper understanding of the vocation of a missionary and makes more real for them the life of the missionary. During the various mission collection drives the students recall that they are working for their missionary.

For more information contact:

Sister Maureen Foy, OP
St. Mary School
38 Walnut Street
Oneonta, New York 13820

Sister Mary Siefken
Holy Family School
800 Bookcliff Avenue
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

Adopt a Grandparent

The students in grade three adopt a resident in a neighboring nursing home. This is called their "grandparent." The children and the adults correspond and exchange cards, letters and seasonal art objects. Twice during the year the students meet their "grandparents". The first visit is to the home of the "grandparents" where they meet them and tour their home. The students also arrange a seasonal party, bingo, or sing-a-long. During the second visit the "grandparents" visit the school. At this time the students have various displays for the guests and some type of entertainment. At the end of the school year, the students send their home addresses so their "grandparents" can write to them during the summer.

For more information contact:

Paula Wheaton
St. Frances Cabrini School
529 West Hawthorn Drive
West Bend, Wisconsin 53095

Patricia Attix
St. Catherine of Siena School
2501 Centerville Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19808

Care for the Cemetery

In early spring the third grade students spend some time picking up twigs and papers that have accumulated in the parish cemetery during the winter. This is done under the direction of the janitor and the supervision of the classroom teacher.

For more information contact:

Mary Ann Palacios
St. Casimir School
10053 M-65 North
Posen, Michigan 49776

Visit to Nursing Home

Second graders take turns visiting the elderly in a local nursing home. On the one day each week that a group of children visit the nursing home, that group has reading first. While the other two groups are having reading, a volunteer walks with the students to the nearby nursing home.

Prior to the start of this program the students receive instruction in what they will encounter. This is done so they will not be scared by seeing someone in a disheveled condition. The students also receive instruction on how and what to say to the people. Some students prepare artwork or stories for the patients.

For more information contact:

Sister Theresa Jilk
St. Francis School
318 11 Avenue S.E.
Rochester, Minnesota 55904

Kathy Carter
St. Mary Magdalen School
8615 7th Avenue
Everett, Washington 98204

Prayer Pal

Students in grade three visit a local nursing home in the early fall and become prayer pals with the residents. As a sign of this sharing, the students make small paper apples and place their pictures on them. One

apple is given to each patient. The patients also make apples with their names on them. One is given to the student who will be the patient's prayer pal. This serves as a reminder to both that they should be regularly praying for each other. Later in the year the students will visit wearing their first communion clothes, attend mass together and share a party.

For more information contact:
Ann Walsh
Ss. Peter and Paul School
240 Dover Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02721

An older student of St. Cecilia School, Omaha, NE, helps a younger student with his block building.

March of the Saints

The first and second grade students dress like the saints and march into church with the priest for the All Saints Day liturgy. During October the students have been studying about the saints and have taken books out of the library to read and share with their parents. After mass, the students march around the neighborhood. This is done for the benefit of the shut-ins who have been told of this event. Many of them are at their windows watching the march.

For more information contact:
Sister Lois Clennon
St. Thomas School
Madison and Garfield
Philo, Illinois 61864

Beautifying the Soup Kitchen

Kindergarten students take responsibility for decorating the local soup kitchen dining room. The students make place mats and draw on them appropriate designs and sayings. They also create posters for the walls of the diningroom. These art works are changed regularly to fit the particular holidays.

For more information contact:
Sister Maggie Kilduff
Our Lady of Guadalupe School
2405 Navigation Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77003

Greeting Cards

Students design and make Christmas cards. After they have completed these, they receive the names of persons living in a local hospital, nursing home and rehabilitation center. The students write a personal note to these people and send the cards to them. The same activity is carried out for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, first day of spring, Easter, first day of summer and 4th of July. If the person receiving the card writes back an additional card is sent on that person's birthday. By doing this on a regular basis throughout the year

students learn that concern for others is not limited to a few days each year.

For more information contact:

Rosemary Manzo
or Theresa Niedzela
Most Holy Name School
96 Marsellus Place
Garfield, New Jersey 07026

Sister Kathryn Hoener
St. Teresa School
1108 Lebanon Avenue
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Get Well Cards

Because young children are not allowed to visit hospitals, the students in the primary grades send greeting cards. Each student decorates the front of a 6" × 6" piece of construction paper. On the inside the students handwrite a message which includes a promise of prayers. The cards are sent weekly to the parishioners who are listed in the rectory prayer book as being sick. During the day, the students remember these people in their prayers.

For more information contact:

Joyce Wilburn
Sacred Heart School
540 Central Boulevard
Danville, Virginia 24541

Art for the Shut-ins

Each month students in the primary grades make a special piece of art for the home-bound members of the parish. Some of these art projects include paper-plate flowers, pumpkins, Pilgrims, wreaths, snowmen, hearts, shamrocks, Easter eggs, flags, and pictures of the saints. Students write little messages of greetings on the back of each art work. The priests and Eucharistic ministers cooperate by delivering these when they visit the homes of the shut-ins.

For more information contact:

Sr. Catherine Ann Koller, CDP
St. Basil School
1803 Concordia Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15210

Pat Jakubek
Our Lady of the Lake School
716 S.W. A Avenue
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

Extending Sympathy

Students seek to find ways to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Third grade students reflect on the meaning of comfort the sorrowful. They receive from the rectory the names of the recently deceased members of the parish. Cards of sympathy and promises of prayers are sent to the families of the deceased.

For more information contact:
Ronald Karcher
St. John Catholic School
519 Hazel Street
Red Bud, Illinois 62278

SECTION III

ACTIVITIES FOR INTERMEDIATE GRADE STUDENTS

COLLECTIONS

Tuition Fund

Students develop a sense of stewardship by participating in the tuition fund or the "angel fund." The students contribute their own money by giving up candy, ice cream, other snacks, movies and other wants. The donor and amount of the contributions are kept anonymous. The fund is used to finance the education of students in the school who cannot afford to pay full tuition.

For more information contact:
Loretta Ulakovic
St. Angela Merici School
1640 Fawcett Ave.
White Oak, Pennsylvania 15131

Gifts for Children of Prisoners

In early December the students learn of the needs of children whose parents are in prison. They learn how old they are and what they would like for Christmas. Each student assumes the responsibility for getting a gift for one of these children. These gifts are wrapped and an appropriate card is attached. The gifts are delivered to a central place for easy distribution.

For more information contact:
Janice Schrag
Christ the King School
1558 Creighton Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44310

Walk-a-thon for the Homeless

Fifth and sixth grade students conduct a walk-a-thon for the homeless. The students themselves develop all the rules and regulations for the program. They solicit sponsors for their walk. The proceeds are presented to the director of a shelter at a special school liturgy.

For more information contact:

Sister Mary Angela, OP
Holy Spirit School
13 South 6th Street
New Hyde Park, New York 11040

Barbara Fitzpatrick
Mother Seton School
100 Creamery Road
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

Care Kits for Third World Children

Students collect soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pencils, erasers, crayons, etc. These are made into little kits for students living in a third world country. They are brought back to the country when one of the missionaries of the same religious community that teaches in the school is returning to the country. Eye glasses can also be collected since many third world people have poor eyesight and lack funds for glasses.

For more information contact:
Sister M. James Kuzell, OSF
St. Lawerence School
1902 Maharry Street
Lafayette, Indiana 47904

Students at St. Joseph School, Petersburg, VA, prepare needed items for the residents of CARES Shelters which assist battered women and homeless people.

Contract to Support the Missions

During Advent students sign contracts with adults (parents, relatives or friends) to do some specific job for a fee of two dollars. When the children complete the chore the contract is paid. The money is then contributed to the missions.

For more information contact:
Joyce Wilburn
Sacred Heart School
540 Central Boulevard
Danville, Virginia 24541

Toys for Needy Children

Grade six plans a special mass in November for the entire school. Each student brings in a treasured toy in good condition or a new one. At the offertory these are brought to the altar. After mass the sixth grade students set a modest price on each toy. The toys are brought to a New Directions office where people can purchase the materials without having to feel that they are receiving charity.

For more information contact:
Linda Cherry
St. Anthony School
1300 Urban Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43229

SERVICE IN THE SCHOOL

Big Brothers and Big Sisters

Students in the intermediate grades work with students in the primary grades. This assistance is in the areas of reading or writing folk tales, mathematics drill and spelling. When the students attend assemblies or liturgies, the younger students are brought to them by their big brothers or sisters who remain with them through the session. The big brothers or sisters teach the little brothers or sisters to bless themselves, pledge allegiance to the flag and other such activities.

For more information contact:
Susan Pearson
Most Holy Rosary School
1031 Bellevue Avenue
Syracuse, New York 13207

A preschool student at St. Cecilia School, Omaha, NE, is helped by an older student to get ready for "Make Believe Time."

Cafeteria Service

Periodically, the fourth grade students assist the cafeteria workers. The students spend 15 minutes on a given day cleaning the tables or sweeping the floor. This is the way the students show their appreciation to the cafeteria workers for all that they do for them.

For more information contact:
Alicia Fortenberry
Our Lady of Fatima School
2315 Johnston Street
Lafayette, Louisiana 70503

Service Squad

Intermediate grade students work in teams to promote safety and school spirit. Some of the activities they do include: setting up and marking play street areas; distributing nerf balls, whiffle balls and bats, and other items; supervising school doors. The school spirit teams change the spirit posters in the school halls and check for graffiti around the school.

For more information contact:
Sister Mary Keehan
St. John Chrysostom School
1144 Hoe Avenue
Bronx, New York 10459

This middle grade student from St. Cecilia School, Omaha, NE, shares an interesting story with several early childhood students.

SERVICE OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL

Pen Pals with Prisoners

Sixth grade students are pen pals with prisoners. Each month *Sojourners* magazine publishes a list of prisoners who would like correspondence from people outside of prison. Students decide to participate after checking with their parents. The return address of the school is used. The brief letters tell about events in the school and the community. Discouragement may take place because some students will not receive a return letter. At this time, the teacher explains to the students that they are doing this for the prisoners not for themselves.

For more information contact:
Monica Mahoney
Northside Catholic School
4324 Margaretta
St. Louis, Missouri 63115

Pen Pals for Retired Sisters

Students in the intermediate grades receive the names of retired sisters. The students write letters and send cards for special occasions to them. Periodically the students visit the motherhouse where the sisters reside and provide entertainment for them.
For information contact:
Janet Torretta
Our Lady of the Pillar
403 South Lindbergh Boulvard
St. Louis, Missouri 63131

Foster Grandparent Reading and Visitation Program

Working with the activity director of a local nursing home a program is established to help both the patients and the students. Early in the

year the students complete a card indicating their name, hobbies, birthday, interests and preference for a grandmother or grandfather. These are matched with patients in the home. An orientation visit is held to the nursing home in which one of the doctors explains some of the handicaps of elderly people. Visits with grandparents are scheduled for forty-five minutes once a month beginning in October. During this time the students must spend at least 10 minutes reading to their foster grandparent. The remainder of the time is spend playing checkers, putting together puzzles, talking or playing some game. Periodically, the students will give a special performance for the patients. Greeting cards are exchanged on the traditional holidays. Parents are encouraged to join their children in these visits. Sometimes children visit their grandparents on their own.

For more information contact:

Jean Doell
Sacred Heart School
320 West Lynde Street
Watertown, New York 13601

Donald Stuebs
Most Precious Blood School
120 East Washington Street
New London, Wisconsin 54961

Mass with Adopted Grandparents

Once a week a priest is able to offer mass at a local nursing home. The intermediate grade students sit with their adopted grandparents. They help them sing the hymns and recite the responses. If necessary they push the person in the wheelchair to receive communion. After mass they visit briefly with them. At Christmas the students present their grandparents with gifts.

For more information contact:
Hone Newell
Immaculate Heart of Mary School
6360 Pines Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70126

Books for Tots

Students in the intermediate grades write and illustrate stories which are sent to children in the pediatric unit of a nearby hospital. Students work in small groups. They select a particular children's book, write a digest of the text, and create illustrations for the story. Attractive covers are made for each book. Finally, each student records a portion of the

A student from St. Cecilia School, Omaha, NE, listens to a story of a resident in a nursing home.

story on a tape. The tapes and the books are sent to the hospital. This provides a regular supply of fresh stories for the children confined there.

For more information contact:
Irene L. Fortin
St. Anne School
240 Forest Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02721

Advent Box

During Advent, fourth grade students circulate among their families an Advent box. This contains an Advent wreath, a manger scene, a Bible, Advent songs and a gift for the family that receives the box. The fourth grade students lead their families in the short prayer service. At the end of it, the family opens the gift which is from the family who had the Advent Box the previous evening. They then place their gift for the next family in the box. Toward the end of Advent, all fourth grade families come together to celebrate the liturgy. During the offertory

children's clothing is collected for distribution to needy families. After mass the students and their families enjoy a social together.

For more information contact:
Sister Joanne Marie Schutz, SSCM
St. John the Baptist School
12 William Street
Pittston, Pennsylvania 18640

Cleaner Environment

During the fifth and sixth grades' science unit on environment which lasts nine weeks, the students engage in nine hours of service to improve the environment in the neighborhood. Among the tasks that students do are: cutting grass, collecting bottles and cans, raking the lawn and leaves, washing graffiti, replanting bushes, collecting trash in vacant lots, sweeping sidewalks and washing windows. Parents and students sign a contract on the agreed upon work prior to the start of the project and a report of the work actually done at the end of the nine week period.

For more information contact:
Gary McDonald
St. Christopher School
3900 Derbigny Street
Metairie, Louisiana 70001

Valentine's Day Party for the Elderly

Students in grade six sponsor a Valentine's Day party for the shut-ins from a neighboring nursing home. For those who are able to attend, students provide song, dance and refreshments.

For more information contact:

Marci McClatchy
School of the Holy Child
450 Penn Avenue
Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania 19026

Mrs. Sydney Chang
Star of the Sea School
4469 Malia Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821

Pen Pals with C.C.D. Students

One teacher in the full-time Catholic school program and one teacher in the part-time religious education program team up to develop pen pals between the two groups. The students begin writing to each other by leaving notes on the blackboard. This leads to their sharing of addresses and phone numbers. At holidays, the students leave cards and treats for each other.

For more information contact:
Vickie Anderson
St. George School
1612 Bryant Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16509

Birthday Party for the Elderly

On a given day each month students visit a nearby nursing home and conduct a birthday party for all the patients whose birthdays are that month. This activity includes decorating the home, writing cards and developing a program for the party.

For more information contact:
Sister Mary Liam
St. Frances Cabrini School
15325 Woodward Road
San Jose, California 95124

Letters to Homebound Parishioners

Once a week the students select a homebound parishioner and write letters to that person. These letters are written on paper that the students decorate with a seasonal border. The students share the things that have happened in school. The letters provide the students with an opportunity to practice their best penmanship. "Happy Day" cards can be sent to these parishioners throughout the year.

For more information contact:
Mary Jo Fachting
St. Mary School
220 West Downie
Alma, Michigan 48801

Connie McGhee
Our Lady Of Victory School
1626 West Princeton
Fresno, California 93705

SECTION IV

ACTIVITIES FOR UPPER GRADE STUDENTS

COLLECTIONS

Advent Giving Tree

At the start of Advent a beautiful tree is erected in the church which is decorated by ornaments made by the students. The St. Vincent de Paul committee writes labels stating the needs of certain people. These are attached to the ornaments. After liturgy, students take an ornament from the tree and accept the responsibility of purchasing and wrapping what the label on the ornament requests. When the gifts have been purchased and wrapped they are placed under the tree and the ornament returned to the tree. All Advent long the students see the tree redecorated and the gifts accumulate. Just before Christmas a group of volunteers distribute the gifts.

For more information contact:

Catherine Rogger
St. Martin de Porres School
631 Undercliff
Hazelwood, Missouri 63042

Lillian McGovern
St. Catherine School
180 Rodney Street
Glen Rock, New Jersey 07452

Mission Lunch

On each Wednesday of Lent the students may eat a Chilonga lunch. The students wrote to this mission area and asked what the daily diet was. It consists basically of corn mush and greens. Those who voluntarily eat this lunch donate their lunch money to the mission fund. The older students periodically prepare box lunches for the younger students. The younger students pay $1.00 for this lunch. After they have selected their lunch, the older student who prepared the lunch eats with the younger student who picked it. This money is placed in the mission fund.

For more information contact:
Sister M. Christine Hawkins, SHJM
St. Anthony School
1801 Winton Way
Atwater, California 95301

Coats for the Homeless

The seventh grade students conduct a coat drive. The students visit each classroom to explain the project and encourage students to donate un-needed coats. The students also visit people and businesses in the neighborhood to solicit their support. The coats collected are given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society for distribution.

For more information contact:
Cathy Guinane
St. Cecilia School
3869 Webster Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68131

Christmas Baskets

The eighth grade students organize the annual Christmas basket collection for needy families. The students write the letter explaining the program to the parents of all the school children. They indicate the type of foods each class should donate. They collect the food and arrange it in baskets according to the needs of the specific family that will receive the basket. The students decorate with holiday designs the baskets.

For more information contact:
Sister Maureen Foy, OP
St. Mary School
38 Walnut Street
Oneonta, New York 13820

Halloween Mission Party

The eighth grade students sponsor a Halloween party. The students set up the games and activities. Students come in costumes and food is served. Students from another school are invited to come to the party. This provides for a friendly meeting of children from different backgrounds. Frequently, students will begin to correspond with each other.

For more information contact:
Linda Tofani
School of the Holy Child
450 Penn Avenue
Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania 19026

Christmas in a Box

Students in one school act as Santa Claus to families in a companion school. Each class agrees to create a Christmas box for one family. Students in the class pick out of a hat a particular item to be included in the box. These items include food, clothing, small toys and school supplies. Prior to this, the school receiving the boxes has told the other school the needs of the particular families who will receive the presents.

For more information contact:
Sister Janice Borst, SCC
St. Patrick School
45 Chatham Street
Chatham, New Jersey 07928

Students at Transfiguration School, Florissant, MO, serve as Music Ministers at the weekly children's liturgy.

SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL

Cross-age Tutoring

Students in grades 5 thru 8 apply for the job of being a helper in a classroom for students in grades 1 thru 4. After obtaining the written permission of their parents and their teachers, they are "interviewed for the job." Those students who are accepted into the program are PALS (Partners Always Learn Something). They are permitted to leave their classroom two or three half-hours each week to assist a teacher in the classroom or playground. They must be able to keep up with their own school work. After acceptance into the program PALS attend a training session which explains to them and their parents their responsibilities. As they go to and from their assignments, they must "punch in and out" by stopping at the office. A special button for PALS has been developed for their identification when they are working.

For more information contact:
Sister Jean Becker
St. Wenceslaus School
227 East Main Street
New Prague, Minnesota 56071

Attention to Others

To build an awareness for others, the seventh grade students prepare colorful candy holders for the pre-kindergarten children for major holidays throughout the school year. The pre-kindergarten teacher instructs the seventh graders in how to make the materials. At the end of the school year, the seventh graders make finger puppets to give to the younger children on the last day of school. The puppets are presented personally and the young children learn who have been helping them all year.

For more information contact:
Sister Mary Ann Adams, IHM
Little Flower School
5601 Massachusetts Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20816

Reading Partners

Throughout the school year the seventh graders devote twenty to thirty minutes each week in reading to the first graders. The first grade students bring their books to the seventh grade classroom where this activity takes place. After the seventh graders have read to the younger students, the first grade students spend a few minutes reading to the older students. At times the seventh and first graders develop a one sentence summary of what was read. During the year the older students may create books for the younger students and leave treats for them. The first grade students write thank-you notes to their helpers.

For more information contact:
Cheryll Gibson
St. Peter School
Sixth and Harmony
New Castle, Delaware 19720

Spiritual Buddy Program

Eighth grade students team up with second grade students to be buddies to each other. They work together throughout the year to help one another in the preparation for the sacraments of Penance, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. They lend support to each other by prayer, participation in the liturgy, and holiday activities.

For more information contact:
Eighth Grade Teacher
St. Christopher School
3900 Derbigny Street
Metairie, Louisiana 70001

Student Supervisors

At the start of the school year, eighth grade students are invited to become helpers around the school. A letter is sent to the parents requesting their permission for their children's involvement in this program. The students select one of several options such as lunchroom monitor, parking lot attendant, morning school yard monitor, dismissal attendant, office clerical assistant or library aide. Teachers approve students' participation in this program. Students wear a school service button to identify themselves. Whenever students are supervising students at least one adult is also present.

For more information contact:
Sister Elizabeth Gildea
Immaculate Conception School
179—14 Dalny Road
Jamaica, New York 11432

Gladys C. Gramling
St. Vincent de Paul School
Union and Howard Streets
Petaluma, California 94952

A student from St. Cecilia School, Omaha, NE, takes pride in her school and performs an important service.

Courtesy Program

Each month the school decides on a specific act of courtesy that will be emphasized that month. A special display reminds the students of this practice. At the end of each month the students evaluate their behavior relating to this act of courtesy.

For more information contact:
Mary Stachura
St. Matthias School
4910 North Claremont Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60625

Baby Sitting

Upper grade students serve as baby sitters for adult catechists on Wednesday afternoons while these people are teaching released time classes to the C.C.D. students.

For more information contact:
Sister Rose Veronica
St. Ann School
142—45 58 Road
Flushing, New York 11355

Big Brother/Big Sister Program

At the start of the school year seventh and eighth grade students adopt students in the kindergarten. The older students assist the younger students at weekly liturgical celebrations, on field trips, and in their own programs of service activities.

For more information contact:
Margaret Monahan
St. Patrick School
1813 South 12 Street
St. Joseph, Missouri 64503

Mary Gail Johnson
Our Lady of Grace School
2205 West Market Street
Greensboro, North Carolina
27403

R.C.I.A. Helpers

Upper grade students receive the names of persons in the R.C.I.A. program. These students pledge their prayerful support for the candidates. As the year goes on, the students receive the addresses of the candidates and are encouraged to write to them. The students are invited to the Rite of Entrance. After this ceremony the students provide the snacks for the hospitality session. Finally, the students see the people received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

For more information contact:
Sister Marie Victoria
St. Bridget Regional School
West and High Streets
Glassboro, New Jersey 08028

Friar Michael Dominic, OFM
St. Thomas Aquinas School
PO Box 427, 3 Moody Street
Derry, New Hampshire 03038

SERVICE OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL

Service to Community Kitchen

The seventh and eighth grade students take turns working at the noon hour in a community kitchen. Each day five of them assist in the project by preparing sandwiches and other foods, serving the people, and cleaning and washing the dishes. All the students have a turn to help in this kitchen. Some students watch young children while their parents visit a counselor.

For more information contact:

Linda Cherry
St. Anthony School
1300 Urban Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43229

Rev. Normand A. Pepin, S.J.
Immaculate Conception School
715 Monroe Street
Fairbanks, Arkansas 99701

Communion Calls

Seventh and eighth grade students have the opportunity to accompany a parish priest on communion calls. The students read a scriptural passage and join in shared prayer. On the way, the priest and students have an opportunity to chat. Parents give their permission for these visits.

For more information contact:
Gloria Benibo
Northside Catholic School
4324 Margaretta
St. Louis, Missouri 63115

St. Patrick's Day Tea

The seventh grade students sponsor a St. Patrick's Day for the senior citizens in the neighborhood. The students serve the traditionally fresh baked deserts, coffee, tea and punch to the guests. They also spend time chatting with them. Finally, the students provide a talent show or a sing-a-long. This can also be held at other times during the year.

For more information contact:

Corinne Milnes
St. Bernard School
P.O. Box 177
Rockville, Connecticut

Theresa Slaton
St. Theresa the Little Flower School
1401 North Bosart
Indianapolis, Indiana 46201

Dinner for the Elderly

The elderly of the parish are invited to a dinner hosted by the eighth grade class. All the classes in the school donate food for the occasion. The eighth graders organize and conduct the entire day. They prepare the menu with the eating habits and needs of the elderly in mind, suggest to the classes what to donate, prepare the food, set the table and serve the food. The seventh graders assist by preparing the auditorium for the event. If any food remains, it is delivered to a nearby nursing home.

This upper grade student at Transfiguration School, Florissant, MO, is helping a lower grade student learn the basics of computing.

For more information contact:

Irene Fortin
St. Anne School
249 Forest Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02722

Martha Barnhart
St. Edward School
631 North Main Street
Brockton, Massachusetts 02401

Monthly Visit to the Nursing Home

After attending mass on Friday, students visit the local nursing home. Some of the students bring the patients confined to wheelchairs to the room for Bingo. During the game the students assist the people with their cards and numbers. After the game the patients are brought back to their rooms by the students. Some students fill water pitchers and take them to the rooms, others deliver the weekly newspaper. Some of the girls help the women with their hair and manicure their nails; the boys play cards or checkers with the men. Prior to the monthly visit the students make little gifts for the patients. These gifts include bookmarks, greeting cards, or little designs to hang in their room according to the season.

For more information contact:

Marie Mentrup
St. Gabriel School
4737 North Cleveland
Kansas City, Missouri 64117

Patricia Krinke
St. Anne School
1023 Cedar Street
Wabasso, Minnesota 56293

Singing and Signing

The seventh and eighth grade students learn sign language. From this develops a Singing and Signing Choir. The students prepare a signed mass to which they invite the deaf and hearing-impaired from the community. The students sign all the responses, hymns and prayers.

For more information contact:

Mildred Wolford
St. Matthias School
2800 Shady Run Road
Youngstown, Ohio 44502

Buddy Program for Disabled Adults

Students in the seventh and eighth grades act as buddies to area developmentally disabled adults. The adults come to the school periodically and the students serve as their guides for a variety of planned activities. These activities include arts and crafts and some simple games. The students share lunch prepared by the women of the parish with these adults. The students prepare some small gift to be given to the adults at the end of the day's program.

For more information contact:
Sister Marlita Henseler
103 East King Street
Rhinelander Catholic Central School
Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501